

On page 3, second paragraph, line 2, delete "as per claims 1 to 9".

On page 3, second paragraph, line 6, delete "according to claims 11 to 13".

Please substitute the following second paragraph, which incorporates the above amendments for the pending second paragraph:

A further object of the invention is the use of the products produced according to a method as a plasma diluent or to produce dialysis solutions. A further object of the invention is a device for carrying out a method for the continuous production of hydrolytically broken down starch derivatives.

On page 3, after the second paragraph, please insert the following:

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating the device for the continuous hydrolysis of starch or starch derivatives.

Kindly insert the following for the Abstract:

#### Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates to a method for the continuous production of hydrolytically broken down starch or hydrolytically broken down substituted starch products such as hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl starch. The invention essentially consists of carrying out most of the hydrolytic breakdown in a pipe-shaped, temperature-controlled reactor having no mixing elements. The remaining breakdown is carried out in one or more reactors fitted with mixing elements (fine hydrolysis). The product obtained can be used both in the food industry and for medical purposes, especially as plasma diluent.